

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with the Attorney of Record, Oleg F. Kaplun, on August 13, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Delete the entire Abstract (four paragraphs) and insert the following text instead

- - A bone fixation system including a fixation device having an upper surface, a lower surface and at least one opening extending therethrough and defining a first axis substantially perpendicular to the upper surface, the opening including a plurality of isolated protrusions formed on an inner surface thereof and a bone engaging member insertable through the opening at a selected angle of orientation relative to the first axis, the bone engaging member having a threaded head portion, wherein upon tightening of the bone engaging member, the threaded head portion of the bone engaging member mates with one or more protrusions of the opening to lock the bone engaging member to the plate at the selected angle of orientation relative to the first axis, and wherein the protrusions exhibit the same pitch as the threads on the bone engaging member prior to insertion of the bone engaging member in the opening. - -

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anu Ramana whose telephone number is (571) 272-4718. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Art Unit: 3775

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Barrett can be reached at (571) 272-4746. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AR

August 13, 2009

/Anu Ramana/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3775